

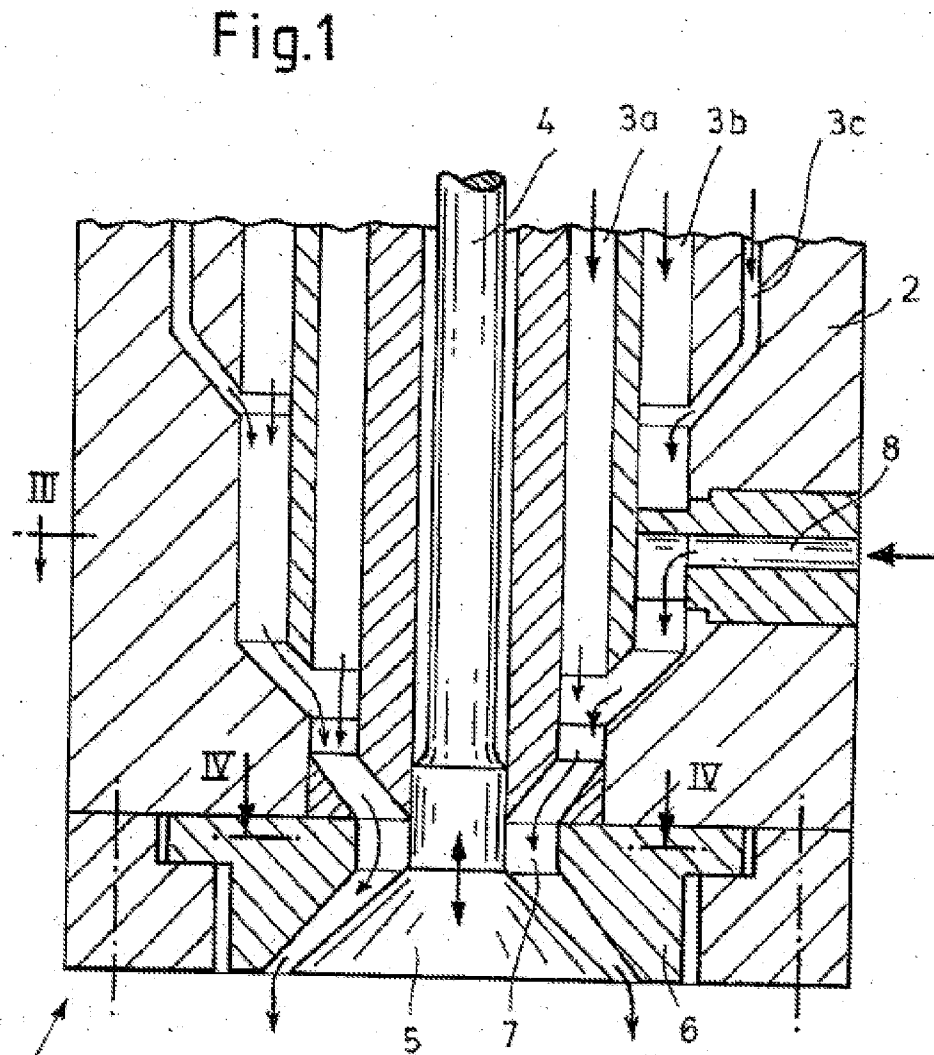
Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-12 are pending in the Application. Claims 8-12 were withdrawn without traverse in a Response To Restriction Requirements of April 11, 2006. Reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite that an annular gap nozzle having an annular gap communicating with the annular passage arrangement, includes at least one flow passage radially opening into an annular passage of the annular passage arrangement for introducing material forming the viewing strip, the flow passage opening upstream of the annular gap in the region of separation of the flow paths. Support may be found at page 3 lines 24-29 of the application which recite “[i]n order to ensure that the molten translucent plastic material passes completely through the two layers, it is necessary under some circumstances for the flow body to be so positioned, directed radially inwardly in relation to the longitudinal axis of the extrusion head, that the extrudate forming the inner layer also flows around the flow body, even if only to a slight degree.” Also, see page 8 lines 9-11 which recite “[t]he flow passage bore **8** extends transversely with respect to the extrusion direction through the extrusion head **1**.” Also see page 9 lines 30-32 which recite “[i]t will also be noted that, when using a radial flow feed head, it is also not possible to avoid the formation of a seam location when the molten material flows around the bar or the spindle.” Accordingly, no new matter has been entered.

To facilitate the understanding of the distinction noted above, reference is made to **FIG. 1** (below) which illustrates that the translucent material enters through flow passage bore **8** in a radial direction into the annular passage arrangement and upstream of

the annular gap 7. In such manner, as can be appreciated, axially flowing material in outer annular passage 3b is divided when encountering the radially introduced flow through passage bore 8.

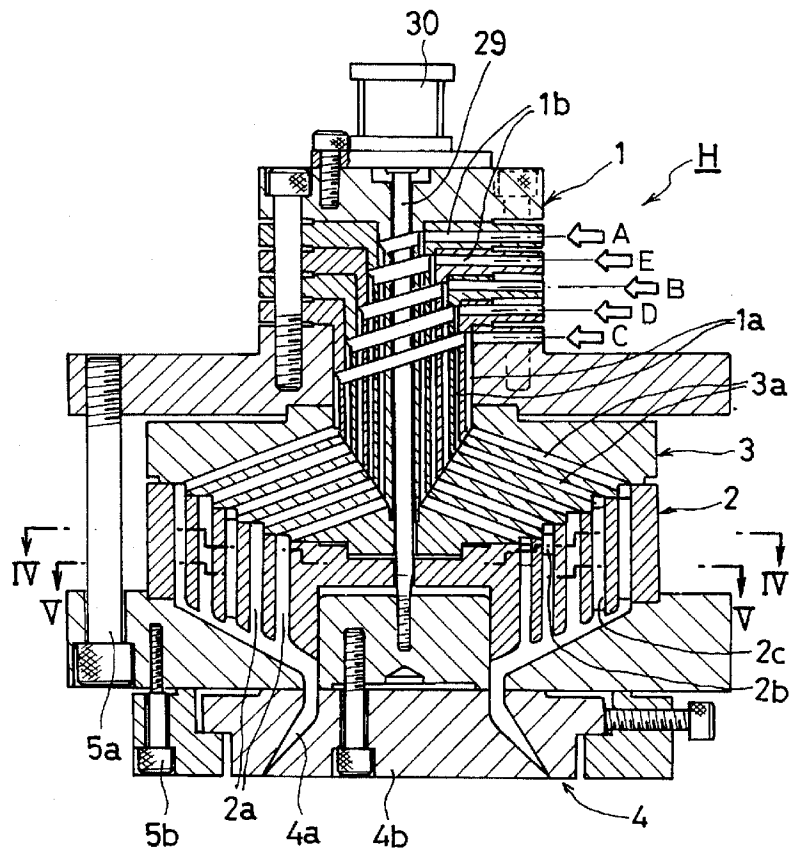


The Examiner has rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohta (United States Patent No. 5,460,772). Ohta appears to be directed at a blow molding process for forming a multilayer tubular preform of a plurality of thermoplastic materials with at least one strip of material extending in the extrusion direction. The extrusion head disclosed includes a plurality of annular passages in mutually concentric

relationship which form mutually separate flow paths for materials forming the various layers of the multilayer perform.

Ohta teaches that all of the streams of molten resin are fed in an axial direction (see reference numerals **2a**, **2b**, **2c**, etc. in **FIG. 2** of Ohta, shown below) which are annular (semi-circular). Ohta does not introduce into any of his annular flow paths a “radial opening into an annular passage of the annular passage arrangement for introducing material forming the viewing strip.” See again, claim 1 as amended.

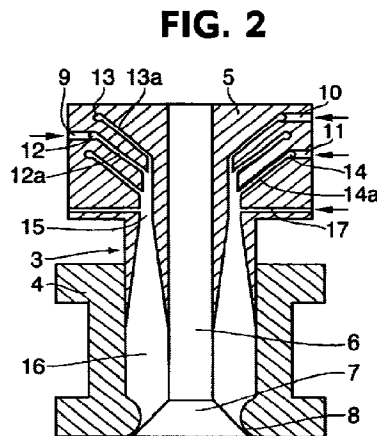
FIG. 2



The Examiner has also rejected dependent claims 2 and 6 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohta in view of Richter (USP 6,764,639) and/or applicants’

admission (at page 10, lines 21-22). Claims 2 and 6 depend from amended claim 1 and are believed to be similarly distinguished from Ohta as discussed above.

Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the flow passage opening (i.e. the radial opening 8, e.g., in FIG. 1) is positioned upstream of the annular gap in the region of separation of the flow paths (e.g. where flow paths 3a and 3b are still separated). Such feature is not present in either Ohta and/or Richter. In fact, as best understood, Richter introduces flow channel bore 17 downstream of where all of the axial flow paths (i.e. 12a, 13a and 14a) have already joined. FIG. 2 of Richter is provided below.



Thus, it is believed that the present invention is distinguished over the prior art cited, and combinations thereof, for the reasons set forth above.

Accordingly, in consideration of the remarks hereinabove, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims currently pending in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. In addition, in the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of the case, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,

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